

Filed for intro on 05/23/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 472
By Langster

A RESOLUTION To honor the Ardent Gardeners Garden Club for fifty years of exemplary service to Davidson County residents.

WHEREAS, 2001 marks the historic fiftieth anniversary of the start of the outstanding Ardent Gardeners Garden Club, a commemoration which will be celebrated on June 3, 2001 at the Floyd Payne Center on the Tennessee State University campus; and

WHEREAS, The club was organized in 1951 by Mrs. Blanch Nivens Ennix and Mrs. Ruth Duvall McAlpin; and

WHEREAS, Other ladies who were interested in the beauty of nature quickly joined. One charter member's husband, Dr. William Grant, named the group; and

WHEREAS, The Ardent Gardeners have been fortunate to have had a succession of hard-working presidents, who during their two-year terms have shown much enthusiasm and skillful leadership; and

WHEREAS, This highly regarded group has compiled a very impressive list of accomplishments including very informative flower arrangement workshops, entertaining tours

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of gardens, marvelous flower shows, Christmas Holiday Houses, admired lectures on birds, trees, herbs, evergreens and numerous other topics, a First Place Award in the Metro Gardening Contest, and having the history of the group placed in the Metro Archives; and

WHEREAS, The Ardent Gardeners have also done Fabric and Flowers, with expert assistance by Delores Harris and L. D. Thomas; decorated Meharry Hospital for the Christmas holidays; established a lovely Dorris Campbell-Busby Memorial Garden and mounting a fountain dedicated to Ruth Duvall McAlpin the first president, had a charming display of ceramic flower containers, dedicated a magnificent magnolia tree to Dr. Neal McAlpin at Tennessee State University; and had an exciting fortieth anniversary show at Cheekwood Botanical Gardens; and

WHEREAS, This busy group also made interesting visits to the Louis Mischu's Rose Garden, to Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor's Garden, to Mrs. Isabell Watkins Garden and a refreshing visit to the estate of Mrs. Susan Fletcher-Thompson, where they enjoyed English Tea; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lillian Dunn Thomas is the current Chairman of the Ardent Gardeners Garden Club and has carried forth the fine tradition of excellent leadership of the group; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor the Ardent Gardeners Garden Club on fifty years of making life more beautiful for the residents of Davidson County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Chair Lillian Dunn Thomas and the members, both past and present, of the Ardent Gardeners Garden Club on fifty years of service to the residents of Davidson County nurturing the beauty of Nashville and Tennessee. We wish them much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

